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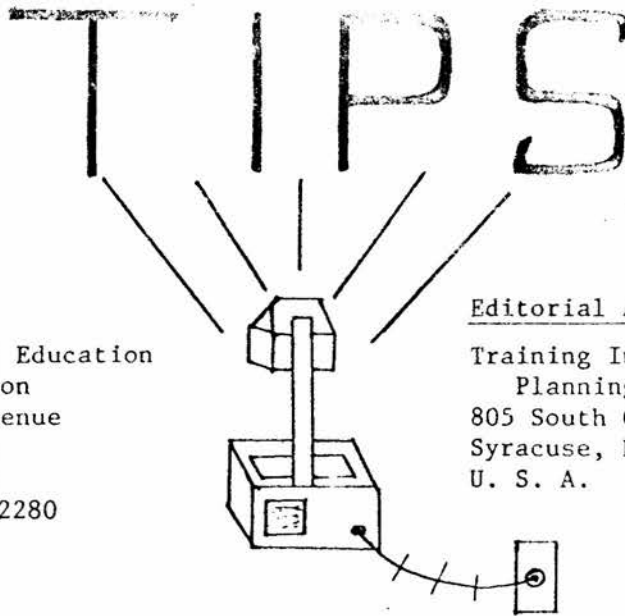
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SOCIETAL TRENDS AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The societal phenomena that we will review in this issue have profound relevance to what happens in human services, since human services always reflect the larger society in which they operate. Today, many societal developments can also be read as signs of their times--in most cases, as very ominous signs of things yet to come.

As steady readers of TIPS must have noticed, we take a pessimistic view of where society is headed.

Would it not be reasonable to agree that hatred of children and reproduction, and breakdown in unifying "social glues," are major (and probably universal) signs of decadence? These are some of the signs we will look at.

Progressive Decline in Amity Between the Sexes

*The proportion of married couples among US households continues to decline while the proportion of people living alone continues to increase. Almost 50% of marriages end in divorces. The large proportion of people living alone and/or as singles, or in childless marriages, has given a boost to apartment construction and rentals, health clubs, and fancy restaurants, while impacting negatively on the savings rate. Already, restaurants pocket 40% of US food expenditures (Time, 2 December 85).

*In order to have a baby, an increasing number of young women are intentionally getting pregnant outside of wedlock. Often, these are youngish women getting on in years (in their mid-30s) who are in favorable circumstances but have no husband in sight. They usually either procur an artificial insemination or carefully select a male partner as the father. One of the attitudes that plays a role here is the individualistic desire of freedom to bring up a baby without having to argue child-rearing issues out with any other person. Some have joined together into a group called Single Mothers By Choice. Some of them are fairly sure that they never want to be married, but do want children. One such woman explained to her child where he came from in these terms: "the doctor put some junk from a man into me and then I had you." (Newsweek, 23/12/85)

*Only 64% of children aged 8-17 live with both of their biological parents (Augustus, 9/87).

*Newsweek (1 June 87) carried a fascinating and revealing article about a recent wave of books advising women how to lead their lives and how to relate to men. The general gist of the books is that women have now been building up their competencies and egos over a period of years with the help of feminism, assertiveness training, the human potential movements and their flourishing careers. Now they feel just great--but where are the men that are worthy of such terrific partners? They either aren't around or don't stay. The answer is that the men are to blame: they are frightened, confused and defensive--mostly because they are men. So some of the titles of the books reveal the general thrust: Men Who Hate Women and Women Who Love Them; Smart Women, Foolish Choices; Men Who Can't Love; Successful Women, Angry Men. As to what to do about the situation, the how-to books reportedly recapitulate "the weary formulas of pop psychology," such as talk about the feelings, tell him what you feel, try to understand his feelings, and an occasional reminder to the woman that she is dealing with a jerk. The amazing thing is that considering that these books are mostly written for, and bought by, single Caucasian relatively educated females under 40, and considering further that of the leading 11 such books, about 9.2 million have sold since just 1981, one has to conclude that there are an awful lot of relatively young adult stupid smart women around who fall for this sort of thing. After all, these 9.2 million must make up a huge proportion of the women of their particular age and education class.

*We are all aware of the recent growth of a field called "women's studies." Now, women are calling for a field of "men's studies"--but not in order to learn more about the human race, but because this "will play a crucial role in common cause against patriarchal privilege." (APA Monitor, 8/88) Because women's studies programs have sprung up everywhere on campuses, it has been suggested that there now should also be men's studies programs. However, the ones that exist appear to be women's studies content in disguise--and are actually attended primarily by women (Newsweek, 28/4/86).

*One branch of the militant feminist movement is now claiming that western science is "male science." "Our 'laws of nature' are more than simple expressions of the results of subjective inquiry. They must also be read for their personal--and by tradition, masculine--content." A movement is therefore underfoot to create a "female science." We can foresee female chemistry, female physics, female astronomy, courses in such sciences taught by women and attended only by other women, doctoral degrees being awarded in the above topics, associations being formed, etc.

*In a spoof (we think) on ultra-militant feminism, a novelist recently depicted a scene where one feminist said to another that in order to prove herself a true feminist, "a woman ought to kill a man." (Newsweek, 21/10/85)

*In the wild, male orangutans will mate only about once every three months, but in captivity, they will forcibly mate with unwilling females almost every day. Further, in the wild, females usually take the initiative, while in captivity, it is the males. Perhaps all this tells us a great deal about the relationship of sexual aggression to anomie, boredom and alienation, such as we see a great deal of in our society. For instance, it is now estimated that one out of every four women will be faced with an attempted rape during her lifetime; and according to one study, 60% of rather ordinary American males said that they would force women to commit sexual acts against their will if they thought they could get away with it (APA Monitor, 3/87).

*According to some sources, several million American wives have been "raped" by their husbands. However, it is not always specified what constitutes rape in marriage, what it takes for a wife to rape a husband, or how to prove that whatever constitutes rape in marriage took place.

*A men's liberation movement is developing which is pointing to some startling discriminations against men: men are being denied a say in regard to the abortion of their children, they are not entitled to paternity leave, and they lose 95% of child custody cases. While child support against men is typically enforced, the visitation right of fathers rarely is. Only men have gotten drafted while women of the same ages could do with these extra years as they please. Spokesmen for the movement point out that the supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment virtually never promote men's rights (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 13 September 82).

*Every year, a larger proportion of children reside in single-parent families. Between 1970 and 1985, the percentage had doubled. In some racial subgroups, it was 54%.

*When Daniel Moynihan wrote a report for the US Department of Labor in 1965 that claimed that the Negro family was in a state of disarray (crumbling) in the urban ghettos, he was viciously assaulted as a racist. However, both his facts, and his interpretations thereof, have been vindicated, and the very parties who had previously attacked him are now becoming profoundly alarmed. The problem has been called "a threat to the future of black people without equal" by the former chairperson of the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and 200 scholars and officials gathered at Nashville's Fisk University. However, the conference was still closed to the press, presumably because of embarrassment and residual attempts to "whitewash" the situation. A number of measures have been proposed, such as more job training, reduction of high school drop-out by the young mothers, training in child-rearing, and volunteers providing all sorts of help to a distressed families in a sort of citizen advocacy-type program. One strategy has apparently not been advocated by anyone, and that is to exalt, interpret, and in other ways promote premarital sexual abstinence, especially among teenagers. One reason probably is that the liberals who would be most sympathetic to the plight of societally devalued classes are the ones who are least sympathetic to sexual morality.

*According to one study "90% of all babies of black teenage mothers are born out of wedlock" (Time, 24/8/87). We suspect that some liberal ideologues would call this progress.

*The dissolution of the traditional family is not merely mirrored but also promoted by contemporary media entertainment. Of 68 TV series in late 1986, only 3 featured a traditional nuclear family unit. Others depicted every conceivable form of unconventional domestic arrangement. While few families may still fit the traditional nuclear family stereotype, the amazing thing is that even yet fewer conform to the patchwork depicted in TV entertainment. In essence, father and mother are being pushed out of the scene, and their functions and authority, such as they are, are being usurped by a most peculiar array of surrogates, ranging all the way to extraterrestrial beings or robots. And yet, at least some social scientists believe that TV is the single most influential shaper of the minds of many young children today. Perhaps what we are seeing is the "make parents dead" counterpart or parallel to the growing "junk children" attitudes of our hedonistic society (Newsweek, 24/11/86).

*Liberal ideologists, particularly in the mental professions, have often tried to glorify divorce, and how beneficial it can be for the couple's children. However, except in infrequent instances, the truth is otherwise. About half of all marriages fail, and the "children of divorce" in the US increase by 1.1 million each year. Teachers say that they see a dramatic deterioration of behavior in such children. Some authorities have referred to these children as displaying "time-bomb" symptoms, such as drug use or precocious sexual promiscuity years after the family breakup. These problems put very heavy pressure on teachers who often do, or are expected to, begin to substitute for the missing parent. One result has been a dramatic increase in things such as divorce workshops for children, often with heavy doses of mainstream pop psychology. Unfortunately, the shrinks are smelling custom, and are proposing that the children be included in these workshops preventively, even before divorce has become a likelihood in their families.

*Here seems one way to preserve marital amity the modern way. A professor at Syracuse University had a commuting marriage with her businessman husband who lived in New York City, almost 300 miles away. The couple maintained a home in each city. Modern descriptions of such arrangements included "distance and freedom for creative growth for both members," "a creative solution, an alternative to family relocation," etc. The couple have four children who reportedly not only suffered no harm but even greatly benefited from the arrangement. Explained the professor: "temptation and infidelity are there, but I don't think it needs to lead to the dissolution of a marriage." Arrangements like these are becoming increasingly frequent, but this one might still be a bit surprising insofar as the Syracuse member of the couple

was director of the university's Marriage and Family Counseling Service. All this may be very well and good, but certainly underlines how little human service fields are based on research--as the fields themselves largely claim to be--but on ideology. It further proves what the editor of TIPS has long said: whatever society decides to be and do, its intellectuals and academics will rise up to prove that it all makes sense, is valid and is consistent with scientific findings.

*A man impregnated his live-in woman friend, and when sued by her for child support, argued that she deprived him of his "procreative freedom" by getting pregnant (SHJ, 7/5/83).

*A 25-year old woman with a psychology degree already divorced from a rich man has been teaching a course in Syracuse on "How to Marry Money." Aside from giving all sorts of tips on how to do it, she also points out that the whole thing "might be too much of a headache."

*Cardboard Cakes for Cardboard Weddings? Big weddings have become the fashion in Japan, with the average couple in Tokyo spending about \$25,000 on their wedding. Even at that, the 5-foot wedding cakes may be made of cardboard, with only one tiny part being for real where the bride takes out a slice. Divorces have attained a Japanese record of about 30%, so a new development is the divorce ceremony at which guests have to pay a fee, the couple apologize to them, and rings are returned (Time, December 6, 1982).

*A lot of people are laboring under the delusion that bringing computers into the home will improve family relations. For instance, one US Congressman has introduced a so-called Family Opportunity Act which would offer tax breaks for the purchase of computers for the home.

Loss of Reproductive & Child-Rearing Competency

One major sign of the end of an era, or even of a society--human or animal--is the loss in capacity to reproduce, which includes loss of adaptive child-rearing. This loss is usually involuntary, but sometimes self-chosen. We see both these things today, the result--aside from loss of fecundity--being deadmaking of offspring, or offspring growing up profoundly dysfunctional themselves, often having even less reproductive competency than their parents.

*Kingsley Davis has written an interesting book on Contemporary Marriage (1986). He sees the traditional institution of marriage as constituting a licensing of reproduction, but now that reproduction has been separated from sexual relationships, this has greatly reduced the societal importance of this licensing, and thus of marriage, with greater emphasis now being given to the sexual gratification and companionship of consortship, rather than reproduction. He argues that since one can have these two without marriage, this has degraded the importance of marriage in people's minds. Thus, in Sweden, formal state-sanctioned marriage has virtually disappeared among younger Swedes, although the birth rate there has experienced a slight increase. He says that another modernism is that instead of valuing children by the numbers, parents now expect quality from their children instead of quantity, i.e., they value children according to the (largely emotional) rewards they offer their parents. Thus, children are no longer intrinsically considered to be a good thing, but have become utilitarian means of self-gratification--and when this self-gratification is no longer obtained, children lose their value. Davis was one of the much-hailed pioneers in family research, but is now somewhat discredited for having become "pessimistic" and "conservative."

*Feminism's conflict with reproduction was encapsulated by founder figure Gloria Steinem herself who said, "I either gave birth to someone or I gave birth to myself." Another woman who gave up child-bearing for a career said, "Whenever I see a particularly sweet-looking baby, I just think of what they are like when you take them home" (Time, 2 May 88). But the crazification that all this causes in some women was exemplified by a 38-year old psychotherapist and behavioral science instructor at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs who first had an abortion, and then a few weeks later, kidnapped a 5-week old baby on the pretense of applying for a babysitter job (AP, in SHJ, 24/2/88).

*It is expected that Denmark will pass a law that would make it the first country to legalize homosexual marriages, with full rights of tax deductions, inheritance, services and alimony, and excepting only the right to adopt children. (Time, 18/1/88)

*We have all heard of so-called "latch-key kids," i.e., children who carry their house key (often on a string around their neck) so that they can get back into their dwellings when they come home from school because there is no one there, usually because both parents, or the only parent, are working. The phenomenon itself is old, and goes back to the 19th century when there was cruel exploitation of cheap labor that forced parents to be gone long hours. Few people realize that there may be as many as 6 million such children between the ages of 6 and 12 alone. Further, at least 50,000 under the age of 6 have already graduated to latch-key status. Among the many consequences is that more children are becoming victims of crime, even from break-ins after they have come home, and sick children who once would have been kept at home are now sent to school, or remain unattended if they have to come home earlier. One feels much more sympathy with their parents if there is only one parent, or the children are older, or have to latch-key for only a relatively short period. But the phenomenon is getting bigger. As happens so commonly these days, instead of trying to reduce a socially undesirable phenomenon, the people in the social, educational, and behavioral engineering business have set up programs, courses, textbooks, etc., to teach parents how to be good latch-key parents and children to be better latch-key children. An example is "The Handbook for Latch-Key Children and Their Parents" published by Arbor House.

*According to one contemporary woman (SHJ), a definition of hell is being a young mother "confined to the house with sniffing, bickering children, time frozen at 3 p.m. on a January afternoon throughout eternity."

*One thing incompetent parents do is kill their offspring. Time (20/6/88) ran a lengthy article on the peculiar phenomenon of an apparently increasing number of mothers killing their newborn babies. In light of the fact that so many entertainment media based on fiction themes portray the unborn or children as demons, it should perhaps not be surprising that some of these women are beginning to hear voices telling them that their child is a devil, and that they should kill it. One other problem is that the drugs that physicians are apt to give to distraught or depressed mothers might be transmitted to the baby through the mother's milk, and could set up all sorts of problems.

*A good example of contemporary forms of eugenic measures is sexually maladaptive males or incompetent mothers being given the choice of either prison or sterilization. An example is a woman in Indianapolis who killed her 4-year old son, and who was told by a judge that if she did not accept sterilization she would get a longer jail sentence (Indianapolis Star, 4 August 88; source item from Joe Osburn).

*One sign of child hatred has been the substitution of artificial for real children. For instance, one Catholic parish in Newark had scheduled a fake baptism of such dolls until the bishop got wind of it and fortunately called it off.

*Since 1983, a whole series of TV films made for entertainment have featured youngsters in trouble, including themes of alienation, incest, drug abuse, homosexuality, abduction, and suicide. Interestingly, as a rule, the parents are interpreted as being at fault, either directly (as by molesting a child) or at least indirectly by being inattentive and insensitive. Thus, the message is conveyed yet again that the problem is primarily a personal or familial one rather than a social one, or one revolving around societal values. Interestingly, it was the film involving the theme of homosexuality that was an exception in conveying the message that nobody and nothing was at fault for the child's condition.

Sexual Exploitation of Children

Quite likely, the current explosion in sexual child abuse is both a sign of hatred of children and incapacity to reproduce normally.

*We have a pile of newsclippings of sexual abuse and rape of children from the last 2-3 years, by both men and women. A new phenomenon is women sexually abusing little children--even babies. We have articles on children abused and raped by foster parents,

(Fresh Air Fund and otherwise), special, remedial and regular education teachers and their aides, nursery and day school operators and staff (lots of them), school bus drivers, babysitters (male and female), Big Brothers, volunteer youth workers, police chiefs, physicians, priests, judges, university deans, and of course, "ordinary people". Research in Minneapolis schools indicated that 1 in 6 elementary children had experienced sexual abuse (The Other Side, 6/84).

Sometimes, whole families engage in sexual abuse of their, or someone else's, children. A Syracuse area husband and wife were charged with each of them having participated in sex with all of their 5 children, ranging in age from 5 through 15, and furthermore apparently inducing the children to have sex with each other and with adult non-family members. On the same day the case was tried, a man in the Greater Syracuse area was reported raping his own granddaughter, and a mother was charged with sexually abusing her 8-month old daughter. A man nominated for teacher of the year in a Connecticut town ended up in court when he was discovered to have thousands of photographs of children and a cache of boys' underwear (Cedar Rapids Gazette, 14/9/85; source item from John Morris).

*MAD, SAD, RAD, and HAD. Children who have been sexually abused apparently develop a tendency to dilate their anus in response to a certain type of stimulus. This has been called the "reflex anal dilation" method, or RAD for short. This is now used as one of the tests for child sexual abuse, but one problem is that some children who have not been abused "exhibit" the same reflex.

*The mother of Brooke Shields started to have nude pictures taken of Brooke when she was 8 years old, and started selling her nude photos when she was 10. There is a whole class of such parents--mostly mothers--who try to sell their daughters' nudity to the image world, thereby playing right into child sex abuse.

*A 44-year old California mother of five apparently controlled 80% of the US market for movies of explicit sex involving children, earning her \$500,000 a year. The children were shown engaging in sex acts with one another, adults and animals. The material was apparently produced in Scandinavia and marketed by her. Her first trial ended in a deadlocked jury, but she pleaded guilty at her second trial in 1984. In between, she illegally received welfare payments and violated her parole on a previous pornography conviction.

*In many Asian countries, both male and female prostitution, by both adults and children, is on the increase because of the advent and increasing popularity of so-called sex tours, mostly by Europeans, Australians and the Japanese, and the burgeoning market for pornography. Merely to "service" the US military base at Subic Bay in the Phillipines requires several ten thousands of prostitutes, mostly below the age of 18. Many of them die from the various venereal diseases they contract.

*In New York, there may be as many as 50,000 homeless youngsters below legal adulthood, most of them involved in sex for money at least at one time or another.

*A pimp in New York conned a hot-line for runaways into giving teenagers who called in a number to call which supposedly represented Covenant House. When they called it, someone there promised to meet the youngster and provide shelter. In reality, the youngsters were met by pimps and presumably enslaved in the sex trade (SHJ, 3 Feb. 87).

*A sociologist (Luc Racine), in the book, Childhood and the New Society, has argued that social liberation can come through the institutionalization of sexual relationships between adults and children. This is a development strongly endorsed by an increasing number of intellectuals and prominent people. In actuality, pedophilia is practiced mostly by men, and especially so by homosexual men, though some prefer pre-pubertal girls.

*Keep your hands off my philes. The North American Man-Boy Love Association is constituted primarily of educated, well-to-do, respectable middle-class and professional "pedophiles" who are lobbying for the removal of any restraints to homosexual relationships between men and boys. They describe themselves as having a "libertarian, humanistic outlook on sexuality," and claim that society has no right to limit "a child's selection of a sexual partner." One of their proposals is to lower the age of consent

for boys to 8, reflecting the motto of a Los Angeles society, "sex by eight, or else it's too late." The British Pedophile Information Exchange wants the age of consent dropped to 4. Pedophiles are disproportionately often found in child care work, such as nursing, teaching, scouting, YMCA and boys' clubs, etc. One of their arguments is that they are good for children, especially those who are otherwise disadvantaged or rejected.

*A modest proposal. Sings the chorus in a Rodgers & Hammerstein operetta, "They've got to be taught before they are 8 who are the people they're supposed to hate." A homosexual mens' group agrees, and proclaims "by 8, it is too late." One would think that this type of thinking argues very persuasively on behalf of early abortions. Contemplate the benefits: prevention of all these controversies and of an awful lot of screwed up kids, no more racial strife, etc. After all, abortion and infanticide have long been argued in terms of the benefits they bring to mother, family, society, and the aborted ones themselves.

*There was something of a scandal in Canada in 1983 when a Canadian Parliament member from Quebec was charged with having sex with a 12-year old girl. A Montreal psychiatrist wrote a lengthy letter to a newspaper defending sex between adults and minors in terms of a "child's right to know everything about his/her sexuality," and sex between men and boys being "a beautiful expression of youthful tenderness" and "sexual liberation." A newswoman who interviewed and condemned the psychologist was denounced by a press council for "lack of objectivity." (Winnipeg Free Press, 7/27/83; news item supplied by David Wetherow)

*In Newfoundland, Canada, a man who had sex with an 11-year old girl was acquitted on the basis that a law forbidding sex with minors discriminated on the basis of age, and was thus unconstitutional. The provincial Supreme Court overturned the decision and ordered a new trial on the grounds that making a distinction in age is not the same as discriminating (Toronto Star, 29/10/87; source item from Barry Wever). However, we should note that the number of people seems to be increasing that want to make sex with children legal, as we have reported before.

*Here is another story of almost unimaginable tragedy and painfulness, all caused by the stupid people in human services. An Indian baby girl had severe health problems in her first years of life on a reservation in Manitoba, and because the problem could not be addressed there, and apparently for other reasons as well, she was fostered out to a Caucasian family where she spent 13 years. Trying to cater to Indian militancy, at age 16 she was jerked out of her foster family against her will and that of her foster parents, and put back on the reservation even though she could not speak the Indian tongue and her parents could not speak English. In short order, perhaps because she was now a devalued member of the Indian community, she was ravished 17 times by 6 assailants, including both juveniles and adults who were helped by yet additional persons who either held her down, locked her up, or stood watch while she was being ravished. Having gotten her utter degradation accomplished, the human services returned her to her foster parents (Winnipeg Free Press, 6 September, 88; plus additional information mediated by Rob McInnes).

*In order to teach children to be "open-minded" about sex and sexual lifestyles, a London (England) education authority has been using a book titled Jenny Lives with Eric and John, where Jenny is a child, and Eric and John are her father and his male lover. In one picture in the book, all 3 are sharing the same bed (Sun, 25/11/86).

*For TIPS readers lusting for good news, here is one: a 3-year old announced to his mother at a neighborhood library, "Mommy, a stranger just walked right past me and he didn't even steal me." (Source item from Elizabeth Carmichael.)

*In part because of the media publicity of sexual abuse cases that actually did happen, and in part because of alarmists and displaced sexual abuse prevention education in schools and elsewhere, school children apparently have learned very fast that one way to grievously punish a teacher is to allege sexual abuse. There have been several cases in the media, including from Syracuse, where teachers were apparently unjustly accused, in most cases the accusers being teenage girls and the accused a male teacher. The response of many Syracuse area teachers is probably not atypical: they have stopped

touching their students, and some will not even step between hallway combatants anymore unless there is another adult present as an eyewitness. As we mentioned before, we call this kind of development "mutual disablement," and such mutual disablement is rapidly rendering our society a disfunctional one.

The Artificial or Unnatural Making of Babies

Turning to unnatural and even artificial modes of reproduction also seems to testify to reproductive incompetency, sometimes coupled with narcissism that would prefer contrived reproduction to adoption of needy children. Technologized ways of reproduction eliminate traditional concepts of motherhood and fatherhood, insofar as children may no longer have fathers, the women who bear them may not be their real mothers, the real mothers and fathers may not even be known, and the "begetting" may be done by a physician.

*According to one estimate, 172,000 women in the US undergo artificial insemination each year, in about half of the cases from men other than their husbands, resulting in some 65,000 babies, all of which is staggering. There is a great deal of money to be made in artificial insemination, and a great many physicians have rushed into this field. Amazingly, about half of them do not seem to know a great deal about what they are doing. It turns out that artificial insemination can transmit not only the donor's deleterious genes, but also all sorts of venereal and other diseases, including HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and hepatitis. Yet involved physicians have shown a remarkable ignorance of genetic disorders, often do no serious genetic screening, and almost half do not check for infections.

*Friends of ours who have been attempting unsuccessfully to conceive applied to adopt a child. They were told by the adoption agency that in order to qualify as adoptive parents, they had to first attempt conception by artificial insemination, and only if that was unsuccessful would they be put on the list of prospective parents. Perhaps the adoption agency employed this strategy because the number of available "desirable" children is on the decline as a result of abortion, while the number of parents who want to adopt is on the increase. Nonetheless, it is a crass and despicable attempt to force a modernistic and mechanistic morality on people. (Vignette submitted by Darcy Miller Elks)

*There actually exists a National Association of Surrogate Mothers who, even though they bear children for pay, claim that "we are women who enjoy being pregnant" (Newsweek, 24/11/86).

*The Hagar Institute in Topeka, Kansas, has promoted "surrogate-mother services." However, its name is rather misleading, because Hagar was the concubine that Sarah gave to her husband Abraham in order to have children with (Genesis 16:1-3). Furthermore, Hagar eventually became disrespectful of Sarah (Genesis 16:5), and was cast out into the desert with her son (Genesis 21:10-14).

*US scientists are apparently being successful in getting the government to allow and fund in vitro fertilization experiments, while West Germany appears to be the only western country in which this type of experimentation has been outlawed as an assault on human dignity, much to the chagrin of the scientific establishment there which, as everywhere else, is absolutely determined to do whatever is doable because it is doable, though citing superficial short-term and small-scale advantages as its rationale, such as the ability to help sterile couples have children.

*Scientists are even now debating whether efforts should be made to "create" half-human and half-animal creatures to work as slaves. (News item supplied by Lindsay Morgan.)

The Abortion Scene

*Abortions are legally available in every US state, in every city of any size, and in a very large number of very small communities. Furthermore, abortions are subsidized to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. Yet the National Organization of Women vehemently lobbied for a legislative provision that would make it mandatory for

religious medical institutions that receive federal funds for any purpose to also have to provide, or pay for, abortions. It made no secret of the fact that this was an effort to force primarily Catholic and other Christian hospitals to perform abortions or go out of business, and thus to punish any opposition to abortion. It reminds one a bit of the efforts of the Nazis to get the Jews to police and kill each other, and to thereby not merely get rid of them but to degrade them in the process (ALL, Fall 88).

*In 18 US cities, spread from coast to coast and from north to south (such as Richmond, Virginia, Seattle-Everett, Washington, and Grand Forks, North Dakota), abortions outnumber births. Why some of these cities are in this category is not easily apparent at first. However, it appears that the presence of a prominent medical establishment, usually of a university nature, is the common underlying theme. Once again, we can see that in our age, medicine has come to mean death as much as life. (Source information from Susan Ruff)

*In a debate in the Canadian House of Commons, the Minister of Employment and Immigration said that abortion is the killing of an unborn child, and should not be called anything else, and that the issue is a moral one, but that women have always killed their unborn children regardless of whatever laws prevailed, and that it really boiled down to who was to make the decision: judges, clergy, politicians, or the pregnant women themselves--with her preferring the latter (Interim, 9/88). As we keep saying, we can muster respect for such a straightforward and honest argument that does not try to deceive anyone, in contrast to the normative deceptive language games.

*Two physicians at the Eastern Women's Center in Manhattan, specializing in late-term abortions, each performed an average of 25 abortions a day, but one of them boasted of having performed as many as 85 in a day. The center performs several 10,000 abortions a year, for which it takes in \$40 million annually (ALL, Fall 88).

*An article in the Toronto Star (22/6/88) observed plaintively that the abortifacient "morning-after pill" was "far from perfect," meaning that it only kills in 80-85% of users, not to mention that it has some nasty "side effects." Some enlightened women advised that one should "have an abortion" rather than taking that pill.

*Tremendous deception prevails about the risks of amniocentesis. In the ordinary young woman who does not fall into a high risk group, the risk of damage to the unborn is greater than the risk that the unborn is impaired. In about 5% of children born subsequent to amniocentesis, needle marks will be found. Other complications (e.g., still births) and damage may also arise, and the infant might even be stabbed in the eye (ALL, Fall 88).

*The president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops sent a letter to all Canadian senators and members of Parliament, telling them that they could vote in good conscience for one of three pending abortion bills which would allow abortions in case of threat to the life or health of a mother. This would apparently include a very loose definition of health, including mental health. This has alienated the Canadian Pro-Life movement from the Catholic hierarchy (CLCN, 7/88).

The Creaking of Breaking & Melting Social Structures

One of the signs of a society in the process of melt-down is that its social structures cease functioning adaptively, if at all. Before they give out, one can hear them creak, moan, groan, etc. Here are a few examples--in addition to the ones already covered.

*The US Education secretary said that the Chicago school system is "close to an educational melt-down" (Newsweek, 4 July 88).

*So many employees of the schools in New York State have been found to have had criminal records that a law was introduced to allow school districts to check the criminal records of its applicants. One of the major objects is to prevent the employment of people who might abuse children (AP, in SHJ, 5 April 88).

*A NY Times columnist (1/88) observed that American high school and college students are so abysmally ignorant of geography that there is a real danger that the Marines might somehow conclude that they had to invade Long Island.

*In order to receive \$354 in federal aid, school officials in Happy, Texas (pop. 600) with a school district servicing 240 pupils had to fill out some 50 pages of federal forms concerned with those of its programs which had received the funds. The cover letter and the instructions alone amounted to 36 legal-size pages. In addition, there were 17 forms totalling more than 100 pages to be filled out (AP, in SHJ, 18/3/83).

*How self-defeating modernistic efforts at reform can be was illustrated in an article on the collapse of our school system (Newsweek, 2 May 88). A teacher merit pay program required a participating teacher to fill out a form of intention to apply, then one additional form for each class she taught (5 in all) predicting anticipated increases in student test scores, then a listing of the grades of all of her 145 students on previous tests (many of which were hard to find because they had been mis-filed and had to be chased down by hand), then another form requesting an evaluation by 2 other educators, then forms for lesson plans for her classes, then a form on the grades students received on a related exercise, and finally the new student test scores. Again, we can see that in the contemporary post-primary production (PPP) and disfunctionality context, reforms consist of the very things that bring about the downfall in the first place, namely more PPP activities rather than merely the proper teaching itself.

*Schooling used to be a rare privilege, reserved mostly to the affluent. It took a heroic struggle to establish it as a universal right, and surely, universal free public education has been a major opening of doors to the poor. Yet an amazing thing is now happening with so many of the poor dropping out of school, namely the idea that students should be paid for not dropping out of school (Newsweek, 22/9/86). An added element of concern here should be that everything in our society appears to get converted into monetary value. Many spouses pay each other for doing certain things (including sex), people hire women to bear children for them, and thus it is perhaps no surprise if children expect to be paid for going to school.

*The School of Education at Syracuse University where the TIPS editor abides has opened a writing center which is prepared to help not only students but also faculty members to improve their writing. There is something pathetic and alarming in the idea that a School of Education that trained the teachers that failed to teach children to read and write has to teach writing to these very same children when they come to study, even on the graduate level--or when they become professors. This also illustrates what we have called a process of displaced address: instead of cracking down on the quality of teachers and what and how they will be expected to teach, we try to jury-rig a bit of writing skill for them while they are working on their master's and doctorate degrees.

*Newsweek once carried an article about the Texas town of Plano which had been described as "a perfect city." It was inhabited mostly by a homogeneous middle-class citizenry, and an extraordinarily high proportion of teenagers own expensive cars. However, it had one of the highest divorce rates in the country, and had experienced a virtual epidemic of teenage suicides. Hypotheses for this have been that only 38% of teenagers lived with both natural parents (!), and teenagers being raised with less altruism and strong belief systems than formerly. The town seemed to exemplify the deception to which so many Americans are victims. There were \$150,000 and up houses--but they were protected by 8-foot high stockade walls, and the residents were characterized by rootlessness and isolation.

*There are dozens of new games, teaching sets, coloring and other books and children's TV programs which try to teach children to escape from all sorts of hazards of a collapsing society, especially being hurt or sexually abused. A universal instruction to children is never to speak to strangers, but no one explains how a child will ever make friends this way. The titles of some of these products are "Strangers and Dangers," "Don't Talk to Strangers," "Never Talk to Strangers," "The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers," "You Can Say No," and "Safely Home." All of this goes hand-in-hand with children being fingerprinted, being told which house to run to for safety on the way to or from school, etc. When, after all of this, children are going crazy and show all sorts of anxiety symptoms, then people are ready to call in the shrinks again on the kids. Of course, one

"strange" thing in all of this is that much child abuse is not perpetrated by strangers at all. Thus, we perhaps need products entitled "Don't Trust Your Daddy," "You Can Say No to Momma," "Don't Let Your Brothers and Sisters Touch You," and "Noticed Something Queer About Your Teacher?"

*An example of the sad results in a society in which children are increasingly at risk of being abandoned and otherwise maltreated by their parents, as well as in which societal human services are increasingly objectified and bureaucratized, occurred outside of Nashville, Tennessee at the end of June 1986. There, a couple from Kentucky on their way home from a family trip stopped at a gas station. While the father pumped gas, his 3½-year old son got out and went into the bathroom. The father had last seen all of the family asleep, and did not notice the boy's disappearance or absence, and drove on. When the parents discovered about an hour later that he was gone, they returned to the gas station and called the police. Meantime, the child had been found and police had been called, and these then notified the state department of Human Services which took custody of the child. It was not until 15 days later that their son was returned to them, and only after they had gone to court and had their family situation investigated to see whether it was a sound one. (Source item submitted by Luca Conte) Thus we have a sad spectacle that at the same time that mere accidents like these are investigated as if there were an intent of foul play, parents who are demonstrably incompetent, or otherwise unfit to raise children, are permitted to keep their children and often do irreparable damage to them.

*In Britain, an increasing number of people, mostly young ones, are beginning to describe themselves as anarchists, i.e., proponents of the idea that society should be organized without the constituted authority of government or rulers. Oddly enough, there is an extensive overlap between them and animal liberation groups. This particular brand of anarchism is quite ready to use violence and terror-like tactics. (1988 source clipping from Ruth Abrahams)

*Often, it is investigative news reporting which uncovers socially significant data and patterns not studied, reported or interpreted by either the governmental nor the scientific establishments. A good example is such an effort by an Alaskan paper that revealed that official social and death statistics had failed to identify major realities of social collapse in rural Alaska, especially among native populations. The statistics on largely liquor-induced crime, violence, suicide, and sexual assault of children are staggering. During one 6-month period, one community of just 550 people suffered two murders, four drownings, dozens of attempted suicides and 8 successful ones, in addition to other crimes. There has been a dramatic response and the promise of many social programs, but we suspect that these will be largely ineffective since they virtually never go to the root of such problems, which in this case involves the death throes of a culture (Newsweek, 15/2/88).

*Trial by fire? People don't realize how many people become firefighters because they love fires. Relatedly, it is well-known that a great many members of fire departments are, have been or become arsonists. Those who are familiar with these tendencies are not surprised to learn that in Oswego, NY, seven members of the volunteer fire department--including the fire chief, a 20-year veteran--have been arraigned on suspicion of having set a series of fires. One of these was directly across from the chief's house where the firemen were having a picnic. Before he was arrested, the chief said about some of the other suspects who had been arrested earlier, "I feel they're innocent, I know the men pretty well and I don't think they would do anything like that." Amazingly, they were reinstated into the fire department with the rationale that they were merely trying to get rid of eye-sore old buildings, and were really very good firemen.

*Of the more than 1,000 police officers in Miami, 72% have been divorced, and 25% have required treatment for alcohol or drug-related problems (Time, 1/17/83).

*In 1987, the President of Johns Hopkins University reflected on the fact that there haven't been any "great university presidents" in the US for several decades, and attributed this to the fact that universities had become so complex in their scope and so nearly unmanageable as to simply no longer permit greatness to emerge as it once did. I would slightly restate that as meaning that complexity has increased so much that collective enterprises have slipped beyond meaningful control of even the geniuses (Science, 14/8/87).

*Syracuse University, whence TIPS issues, has recently received a new telephone system which, however, was lampooned in Time (4 July 88) as being an example of the kind of technology that escapes human control and that resulted in the shooting down of the Iranian airliner by a US warship this summer. Indeed, the telephone credit card which the TIPS editor received in conjunction with the new telephone boasted of "easy dialing" with this "simple" system, but it turned out that it requires the dialing of up to 37 numbers (39 for a foreign call). If that is easy, what would a non-simple non-easy telephone system be like?

*A dramatic example of the formalization of virtually everything, and of the increasing intrusion of lawyers into societal affairs, is the new cult of writing divorce settlements prior to marriage.

*American fans of opera have little tolerance for human weakness. At a performance of New York's Metropolitan Opera not long ago, the male singer, coming down with a cold had to give up after the first act, and a substitute took over. Getting into the opera's biggest aria, his voice did not quite make it, and the audience booed. The singer was so stunned that one of the sopranos had to hold his hand, afraid if she let go that he would leave the stage. The event divided the audience, some booing, others trying to stop them. Rival factions began to smack each other with their paper programs. The conductor in the orchestra pit pleaded vainly with the audience to behave themselves. Eventually, he collapsed under the strain and a substitute had to take over. A similar fiasco had just taken place in Vienna, where they barely made it through an opera without calling in the third tenor to substitute. Said one fan, "Three tenors in one performance would have been the end of the world."

*Breakdowns in the business and industry sector that result from the increase in complexity of things have become so normative that an entire new corporate discipline has sprung up known as "crisis management." It deals with how to respond to such things as industrial accidents, product recalls, and even terrorist attacks.

*Is it a sign of our times that physicists are increasingly turning their attention to the study of chaos? The study of chaos used to be considered an esoteric diversional sideline of physics, engaged in as somewhat of a game, but is now becoming a serious field (Science Digest, 6/86).

Melting Values & The Rise of Kooky Religions

Some of the trends already reviewed, and some yet to be reviewed, reflect a collapse of (a) cultural value cohesion, and (b) values that can sustain people in adaptive functionality. The latter are often replaced by religious or quasi-religious schemes that are idolatrous, demonic, or peculiar, to say the least.

*The German philosopher Nietzsche (1844-1897), though not too well-known in the United States, was a social Darwinist and one of the fathers of modern materialistic utilitarianism. He said things such as the following: "Nothing is true and everything is allowed; egotism is a characteristic of the noble soul; if man becomes altruistic, it is all over with him; the strong should not practice love of neighbor, but love of non-neighbors; do not spare your neighbor, because the human being is something that must be overcome; the greatest spender of alms is cowardice; the generation of a nation is nature's detour for the production of six or seven great men; the weak and misshapen should perish-- a first maxim of neighborly love; it feels good to witness suffering, but feels even better to make suffering; without cruelty, no feats; if someone is about to fall, he should be pushed" (Schaub, 1909).

Strange as it may appear, Nietzsche has been and continues to be a highly celebrated philosopher profoundly studied by very educated and intelligent people and taught in the universities. Yet the above wisdoms can be elicited with little difficulty any day from some of the habitual law-breakers in our prisons--and very cheaply at that, and without having to take demanding college courses to acquire this wisdom. It is to Nietzsche that the Nazis looked for a philosophical base, but the contemporary materialistic hedonism we see all around us sounds like a practical mass application--often by the common people that lack deep sophistication or high intelligence--of the thinking of Nietzsche.

Any number of issues that we have addressed in TIPS, plus many others, really boil down to one single issue, and that is whether we as a society will embrace utilitarianism as the highest and ultimate ethical principle, or whether we are going to uphold any

higher principles that will tell us that some things that "might work" simply should not be done, regardless of whatever perceived good they may bring. Another way of putting that is to ask whether ends (in this case, very utilitarian ones) justify all means whatever.

*In much of the teaching of the TI in recent years, we have interpreted to people the destructive impact that materialistic assumptions have had on society and human services. A 1984 book by Nobel prize-winner Eccles and collaborator Robinson, entitled The Wonder of Being Human: Our Brain and Our Mind, also decries modern materialism and several related assumptions, such as "scientism, relativism, evolutionism, and environmentalism," the latter two in this work referring to tendencies to reduce human phenomena to either of the two extremes. Perhaps not surprisingly, the book was not well-received by a reviewer in Contemporary Psychology in late 1985.

*DeMarco, E. (1982). The anesthetic society. Front Royal, VA: Christendom Publications. This book posits that contemporary western society has become anesthetized--numbed--to all sorts of important moral issues. One interesting result is that people can only deal with moral issues in the abstract, but not in the concrete. For instance, the idea of likely suffering sometime in the future is oppressive to people of today--but not the actual suffering entailed in the act of abortion or infanticide which they inflict in order to prevent the possible suffering. Similarly, justice vis-à-vis living persons (such as retarded institutionalized persons) is denied, while supposed justice vis-à-vis possible future persons (such as the children that might be born to institution inmates if they are not sterilized) is upheld and invoked in order to commit an injustice against those now living. DeMarco describes this as the possible being given precedence over the actual, or what is not being given precedence over what is. (Review by Susan Thomas)

*As we point out in various contexts, there is a world-wide convergence toward a relatively uniform value of hedonism, which spares very few societies. Thus, family life in the USSR is almost as decadent as in the West. There are about 8 million abortions a year, the divorce rate is about 50%, alcoholism is the reason in more than half, and almost a million children a year grow up fatherless (Interim, 12/85).

*In 1967, 83% of US young adults said that developing a meaningful philosophy of life was one of their important or even essential goals. In 1986, only 43% said the same thing (NCR, 20/6/86). Of course, at any one time, probably even fewer believe what they say. In balancing off this development, 71% said in 1986 that "being very well-off financially" was essential or very important to them, while only 43% said that in 1967. Another large survey of US college freshmen only 2 years later revealed that only 39% saw a "meaningful philosophy of life" as an important goal--the lowest proportion in 22 years of this kind of survey. Frighteningly, the highest proportion since 1982 want to become teachers (Time, 25/1/88).

*As we explain in detail in various of our workshops where we discuss contemporary value trends, ours is a society that increasingly places very high value on sensualistic pleasure, which includes, among other things, an excessive and obsessive emphasis on making and keeping the body attractive and sexually desirable. This has had all sorts of terrible effects. For instance, it makes handicapped people whose bodies are far from the cultural ideals of beauty even more devalued than they might otherwise have been. It also has wreaked havoc with the self-image of ordinary, unimpaired people who fall short of the cultural ideal. For instance, increasingly, we have witnessed an epidemic of eating disorders, particularly among young (externalistic) women, who in effect, starve themselves to match their perception of the cultural body ideal, as exemplified by television and magazine models. How far this obsession with the appearance of the body can go, and how destructive it can be, was exemplified by the French sex symbol Brigitte Bardot, who is quoted as having said, "...Old age...is horrible: you rot; you fall to pieces; you stink. It scares me more than anything else. There is a beach not far away, but I never go during the day. I am 48 and not so pretty. I wouldn't inflict this sight on anyone anymore" (quoted in Todd, A. D. (Spring 1984). Women and the disabled in contemporary society. Social Policy, 44-45.) Thus, even those who have exemplified the very cultural ideal themselves find themselves betrayed by the idol that they have worshipped--and betrayed at a fairly young age at that.

*They may not have known what they were doing, but they certainly chose well when the creators of Club Hedonism in Jamaica located themselves next to Bloody Bay.

*In 1985 or thereabouts, two books came out, one entitled Money, Sex and Power, and the other Sex, Money and Power (NCR, 13/12/85)

*The US National Science Foundation surveyed some 14,000 researchers who had applied for money from it during 1985, and one of its "biggest" findings was that if you give people money, they generally like you, and if you turn them down, they get testy (Science, 10 June 88).

*More and more, even very young children are being systematically socialized into being materialistic. A big boost to the children's fashion market has been given by the rise in single-parent families who look to the child as more of a companion than a subordinate. It seems that from the "material girl," material infants grow (Newsweek, 4/86).

*The Yuppie obsession with making money through unproductive work (if any work at all) is filtering down the age scale. Children can now engage in all sorts of investment seminars, business camps, and so on, all in preparation for becoming paper-world millionaires. The US Internal Revenue Service has not helped things by developing a new tax form to be filled out by children with annual investment incomes in excess of \$1000 (Newsweek, 27/7/87).

*It is said that the inventor of the radar detector made \$175 million in less than 10 years--selling a device whose sole purpose is to help millions of people to break the law.

*Both surveys as well as real-life episodes (such as armoured trucks losing money that gets picked up by thousands of citizens) have underlined that there has been a significant decline in moral attitude among American citizens. Citizens are particularly likely to have no compunctions about acquiring or keeping money dishonestly if it is seen to belong to government or institutions rather than to individuals. Of \$2 million that got lost from one armoured truck, only about \$100,000 was given back by its finders. One man who found and gave back \$57,000 of that \$100,000 was told by a fellow worker, "that was a gift from God and you gave it back." Thus, we can see that even the approval of God is invoked for gross monetary dishonesty. We have to assume that the god at issue, once again, is Mammon (Time, 4/4/88).

*It is reported that there are up to 500,000 "financial planners" in the US who invest on behalf of citizens. In the last two years, many of these have defrauded between 20,000-40,000 investors of anywhere between \$400-800 million. Quite commonly, the defrauded are otherwise educated and intelligent people, but have been misled by greed as much as have their advisors (Newsweek, 29/8/88).

*Among Chicago area business executives, 82% said that most corporate chiefs are honest--and yet 73% considered practices in their own industry unethical. Though 21% said that they themselves were quite willing to bribe a public inspector, 79% thought that their ethics were higher, or even much higher, than that of their peers when, of course statistically, only 50% can be above the 50th percentile (AP, 8/87; source item from Elizabeth Carmichael).

*The latest sport for the affluent youth of our society is a scavenger hunt for which virtually all of the items needed will have to be stolen. In one such game in Miami Beach, FL, the items included a "human baby (must be unrelated)." By the time the police caught up with this particular game, its nearly 100 teenage participants had already stolen close to \$10,000 worth of items (Cedar Rapids Gazette, 8 November 86; source item from John Morris).

*Three students in Chicago staged an experiment in which they went to a suburban store and shoplifted steadily for three hours, cramming their pockets with candy, watchbands, magazines, perfumes, a hair dryer and much more. Several times, they left the store, and returned to start all over. At least 50% of the 100 or so customers during that period saw the shoplifting in progress; none of them took any action. They either walked away or looked away, and only one gave as much as a dirty look. The store owner who cooperated in the experiment concluded that whatever he had invested in security measures had been a good investment (AP, Syracuse Herald Journal, 5 February 82).

*A 1980-81 survey of more than 100,000 youngsters aged 9-22 showed that 91% of them thought that shoplifting was a crime, but 49% admitted to having shoplifted at least once, and of the latter, 60% said they would do it again, and only 17% said they had been caught. A major reason quoted by the shoplifters for their crime was that "stores had forced them" to do it by marking their prices too high.

*A few years back, the warden of the U.S. Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta was charged with shoplifting.

*By the time they reach 19, almost 50% of children have shoplifted. Boys do it alone, girls do it in groups; 80% claim they do it on impulse (AP, 23/12/85).

*For over 60 years, the American Seed Company sold its garden seed on consignment via school children. In 1981, the company went broke because an increasing proportion of youngsters have become crooked and have cheated the company. Since 1975, 400,000 children have sent away for the seeds to sell, but have kept the proceeds. The loss began to mount to a million dollars a year about the time the company was forced to go out of business (Time, 12 October 1981). One wonders what will become of the little crooks. On a purely actuarial basis alone, one knows that a large proportion will become human service workers.

*In Japan, children from first grade on are taught in the schools the importance of order, regularity, punctuality, cooperation, thoughtfulness, participation, manners, neatness, endurance, hard work, high aspirations, and respect for public property and authority. In America, moral education is considered to be progressive if it manages to teach constitutional principles.

*Truly longitudinal studies are very rare. One set of such studies has found that children who at age 4.5 are able to delay gratification end up at age 18 to be smarter, more self-directive, more moral and more able to deal with stress (APA Monitor, 8/88). None of that should be surprising.

*An ordinary general practitioner (John J. Cannell) in West Virginia found out that some of his teenage patients who were almost illiterate were reported by their schools to be functioning at grade level. Becoming suspicious, he discovered that the school systems of both his state and that of 8 others reported their students to be performing at the national norm. Thereupon he surveyed all 50 state education departments and discovered that 49 reported above-average performance. It would thus appear that they are all from Lake Woebegone where "all children are above average," though the people who should be laughing aren't. The New York Times has also referred to this phenomenon as voodoo statistics. One should also contemplate that a general practitioner discovered this nation-wide fraud rather than any of the thousands of educational researchers floating all over the countryside, including all those schools of education faculty members who must work like Turks doing research to maintain their status and even place. (APA Monitor, 8/88).

*There has been so much misconduct in science in recent years, including some widely publicized cases of plagiarism and fraud, that a bill has been introduced in the US Congress to make honorary co-authorship illegal. It is indeed a very sad day when malpractices in the sciences have become so normative that the national government would entertain a bill on such a minute issue of professional ethics.

*One does not need to break any laws in order to be crooked to the core, and if anyone doubts that the US Congress, with a few exceptions, is crooked to the core, s/he should read Common Cause (the periodical of the organization by the same name) on a regular basis. The documentations of legal crookery by US law-makers is absolutely staggering. It consists mostly of selling favors, accepting contributions from sources that want to influence one's vote, being permitted to participate in fantastic investment deals by powerful financial people in the know, using campaign contributions to private purpose (which is legal), trading votes, and so on. The problem is that when there is legitimized crime, particularly at the top, there is bound to be illegitimate and often violent crime on the bottom. Of course, the ones on the top virtually never get punished.

*In 1985, 10 times as many federal officials were indicted or convicted as in 1975, and almost 20 times as many were awaiting trial.

*On 13 July 1977, when Consolidated Edison suffered an energy blackout, looters took advantage of the darkness to inflict \$150 million damage during just one night (American Heritage of Invention & Technology, Fall 85).

*With so many of the poor and minority groups having been squeezed out of the employment market, crime has become one of the major sources of income and wealth-circulation in the slums. Not surprisingly, crime bosses have replaced hard-working people in traditional jobs as the models, particularly for the young. Thus, when a drug kingpin in Oakland, Ca., was stabbed to death in 1986 while serving a term in prison, the funeral was a little bit as if an honored mayor or similar public figure were being buried. The streets were mobbed by mourners as the coffin was drawn on a horse carriage driven by a man in top hat and tails, thousands of people came to pay their last respects at the bronze casket, and 1800 packed the church.

*There is a new kind of psychological test on the market, called an "integrity test." The growth of this sort of thing was spurred by a dramatic increase of dishonesty of employees toward their employers since the 1970s, including employee theft. The test also tries to assess propensity toward drug use, property destruction and wastefulness (APA Monitor, 8/88)

*One reason the Mafia is in trouble is that its members are suffering from the same "deterioration of values" as the culture at large, as observed by Newsweek (9 May 88). Younger members are more like the decadent people around them than the strong characters of the older hoods. What the US government and all the police forces never managed to do, hedonism might yet accomplish. It is even said that younger mafiosi are watching old Mafia films in order to learn how to act comme il faut.

*Some people are claiming that contemporary upper-class youth in England are the "most decadent group of young people English society has seen since Regency days," with high rates of alcoholism, drug use and homosexuality (Newsweek, 28/10/85).

*People may not realize it, but there is a connection between the US trade deficit and human services. The US trade deficit has become mammoth, and informs us that Americans live above their income, and/or have aspirations and demands that far exceed what they are willing to work for. One way of saying this is that Americans have become more childish and lazier. The connections to human services are many. Today, human services actually reduce the productivity of people by failing to habilitate them, and by drawing workers from the productive to the non-productive sector. The childishness and laziness mentioned above are apt to be encountered in both clients and human service workers. In fact, a common complaint is that ghetto youngsters can make much easier money dealing drugs (most of them also imported) than working. Further, if the US trade deficit continues for any significant time, there is apt to be a world economic crisis that could have all sorts of domestic economic disasters in its train that will heavily impact on human services.

*Research has found that people's tolerance for pain has been declining, e.g., people increasingly report certain experiences as more painful than they did formerly, they demand anesthesia more than before, etc. In our TI vocabulary, we would say that people are becoming more hedonistic, and less willing to view any kind of inconvenience as an expectable part of life.

*About 100 years ago, shrinkery discovered a mental abnormality that it called "moral insanity." Today, people are apt to suffer grievously if they are found to have moral hypersanity.

*Years ago, the TIPS editor had been tempted to develop a secular system of ethics. The closest he got to it was the concept of act validity, taught particularly at the Training Institute's moral coherency workshop. The contemporary scholar who did develop a secular ethical schema was Lawrence Kohlberg, and he had an enormous impact, particularly in educational circles where the word "moral education" came to mean Kohlberg's theory. His theory of the moral development of children was essentially that of the Enlightenment,

i.e., that humans are by nature good, that they should not be "indoctrinated," but permitted to let the good in them grow naturally and in harmony with contemporary secular humanism. In essence, his system not only separated morality from religion, but even subordinated religion to morality. Nonetheless, his system has been widely accepted among religious educators. In 1/87, Kohlberg was in a mental institution with a so-called depression, and on a furlough went and drowned himself in the icy waters of Boston Harbor. According to his theory, such an act may reflect the highest level of moral development (FI, 11/87).

*The weaker and more decadent our value structures become, the more people arise who are identified as ethicists to purportedly help others resolve so called "ethical dilemmas," which usually consist of situations in which one tries to end up doing what one wants to do rather than what is right, but in a fashion that makes it appear or feel right. Newsweek interpreted the fact that there now is a whole new and growing breed of such "ethics consultants" as "all sorts of people are feasting at the trough of ethics" (9 May 88, p. 56).

*In our TI workshops, we sometimes speak of "idolatry," by which we mean that something that is not God is given the identity and importance of a god. In our day, science and technology is often treated as an idol. The Time (11 July 83) obituary of Buckminster Fuller (itself a name that is hard to believe) quoted Fuller as saying "Man can do anything he needs to do" (that is making a god-idol out of the human), and "I made a bargain with myself that I'd discover the principles operative in the universe and turn them over to my fellow men," which sounds phenomenally like something Prometheus might have said (perhaps did say). One of the destructive things of our age is the widespread hatred of nature and creation, and the attempts to negate and neutralize them. Fuller certainly was quite willing to do that, because he once proposed that all of Manhattan be covered by an artificial dome--yet another alienation from nature which is probably exactly what Manhattan doesn't need.

*A number of scholars have come to believe that sports have become the sacramental expression of the American way of life, with football being its leading sect. Extravaganzas such as the Super Bowl and the World Series have the characteristic of a "collective cultic observance," plus elements of folk festival and observance of historical traditions (patriotic displays, performances of certain pieces by bands, etc.).

*Between 1976-1984, illegal sports gambling in the US is estimated to have increased from \$20 billion to \$70 billion. In three years of betting at the 1984 rates, the money involved would be enough to buy all the church and synagogue property in the US. This amount is also the same as \$1 a second being spent since the 12th century (Context, 2/88).

*A sign that a thoroughly materialized and westernized version of Buddhism has certainly deeply infiltrated into western civilization is that in the small town of Fairfield, Iowa, population 11,000, about 10% of the population comes together up to twice a day to meditate. Their guru is the same one who gured the Beatles. Many do this in order to improve their business acumen and make more money--which they have indeed done, and thereby boosted the economy of Fairfield. Some members of this cult also claim to have achieved "hopping," and even levitation (Newsweek, 3 August 87).

*Pagan voodoo as high science. Apparently, the neo-pagan incoherent mixture of superstitions that are typified by Shirley MacLaine's new religion have been given a name, namely "new age religion" or the "new age movement." The amazing thing is that many commercial firms send their personnel to psychopop types of workshop that we have commented on before, but that are heavily suffused with new age mysticism. Peculiar enough is that some of these training programs are interpreted to consist of a "cognitive psychology curriculum." (Insight, 11 July 88; source item from Peg Wagland)

*American women soldiers who consider themselves to be witches are demanding recognition of their religion (paganism) on their dog tags, and time off for their religious feastdays (AP, in SHJ, 27/11/87). An arbitration board in Ontario has actually ruled that employers must give witches paid time off for their religious holidays.

*Only a few years ago it would have been considered utterly absurd to propose that there are actually people worshiping Satan in our modern Western world. Historians are not even convinced that there ever were any real Satan worship cults during the era of the witch hunts or before--but the age of modernism, rationality and science seems to be the perfect time for it. For instance, in El Paso, Texas, it was estimated that there were 2000 "satanists" in 150 active covens in a city of 450,000 in early 1986 (NCR, 7 March 86).

There also appears to have been a dramatic increase in violent crimes accompanied by occult or satanic rites, and ritual mutilations of victims. The shrink world would undoubtedly dismiss this as merely a manifestation of psychotic behavior, but if that is so, why would there be an increase of such elements at this time?

*Mozart was one of mankind's greatest and most inspired composers. He also was a profoundly religious man who wrote a great many religious works, including a requiem mass for his own death. Even when insulted, humiliated, and barely able to feed his family so that he literally had to work himself to death, he said, "I have God always before my eyes." He struggled hard to maintain his celibacy until he was married in his late twenties, and never had premarital sex. Among the reasons he gave were his faith and his respect for women. After his marriage, he was an ardent, tender and domestic husband to the day of his death, and wrote copious love letters to his wife. There is no evidence that he was addicted to alcohol or gambling. One of the reasons he never obtained any well-paying posts in Vienna was that he was of democratic leanings and favored the American Revolution.

So what are we to make of the tremendously popular film "Amadeus" that portrays Mozart as obscene, lustful, smutty, decadent, boastful, and infantile? Furthermore, Mozart was reported as being a man of good manners and modesty, and the closest the film comes to the truth is that he had a ribald humour--perhaps not much unlike that of the TIPS editor. One plausible hypothesis is that modern hedonistic libertines tried, through this film, to depreciate all the things that Mozart stood for and that they hate, but that some people at least still strive to uphold in our age.

The film did equal violence to Salieri, who was portrayed as envious, insane, mediocre, and even homicidal, trying to destroy Mozart. Yet the man was known as a promoter of young persons of promise, including Beethoven, Schubert, and Liszt, was generous towards charities, and wrote enjoyable music. There is no record of him ever saying anything bad about Mozart, and in fact, toward the end of Mozart's life, he thoroughly enjoyed attending his works, shouting "bravo." He was also one of the few people who attended Mozart's funeral. Perhaps the filmmakers projected their own envy of what Mozart stood for into Salieri. Sometimes, that which is ugly is so convicted by that which is beautiful that it tries to destroy what is beautiful.

The film ran away with the Academy Awards of 1985. (Human Events, 11/5/85)

The Individualism of Modernism, & Its Entitlement Attitudes

One of the major value components of modernism is individualism, which includes an excessive centering on the self, and the growth of an entitlement attitude. This stance is incompatible both with a spirit of polity, and with adaptive social structures.

*How quickly selfish individualism is conquering the minds of our society was illustrated by the differences between a 1970 and a 1983 poll of 1000 American women. Asked in 1970 what the most enjoyable aspect of being a woman was, 22% said being a wife, and 52% being a mother. Personal freedom, rights and careers gained only 14% and 9% of the votes respectively. In 1983, rights and freedom came in first with 32% of the vote, careers and motherhood tied for second place with 26% of the vote, and being a wife was down to a mere 6% of the vote (Haas & Hass, 1987, cited in Evans, 1988, pp. 89-90). All this also testifies to the breakdown in procreative competency: women withdraw from it, and men are certainly not taking up the difference.

*One perverse expression of contemporary individualism is the subtitle of a periodical entitled Self-Help Update which, for issue No. 23, was "Create Your Own Reality." (Spring 1984) After all, is one not entitled to one's own reality?

*The children of this age have developed such a self-centered sense of entitlement that one increasing phenomenon is death threats to weather forecasters both for predicting bad weather, and when bad weather happens, predicted or not. The ancient custom of slaying the bearers of bad news is alive and, so to speak, well.

*Let those people go! A new "entitlement" that some people think they are entitled to is emerging. It is the right to leave the earth "for colonies in space." Protesters are demanding that those who "don't want to leave" unjustly are holding the purse strings shut on the space exploration and development work that would enable others to exercise their right (Futurist, 6/83).

Entitlement Attitudes Expressed via Growing Litigiousness & Formalization

The entitlement attitudes spawned by individualism express themselves in a variety of ways: de facto theft (one is entitled to what one takes), violence (forcibly pursuing what one wants), and litigiousness. The response to successful litigiousness is a fearful formalization of everything that disables all other goal attainments. We have called this mutual disablement, though this often also takes non-legal forms. Party A has done dirt to party B, and party B in turn rises up and manages to disable party A, but then neither party, nor any other party, seems to be able to accomplish anything positive.

*It is a sign of our times, and of the breakdown of the family structure, that on the one hand, as a result of the instability of relationships between parents, children are increasingly cut off from their grandparents, and that on the other hand, a "grandparents' rights" movement is picking up steam in lobbying for the rights of grandparents to have contact and visits with their grandchildren (AARP News Bulletin, Summer 1988).

*The latest perversion in the area of presumed legal entitlements is the theory that if a child is born with an impairment, there simply must be someone to blame for it--quite possibly the mother who committed some kind of "fetal abuse," such as failing to get a prenatal test to identify abnormalities in utero, and/or failing to abort a fetus identified as impaired. For instance, if the mother knew that she was genetically at risk, then any of the above would be further evidence of fetal abuse. Unfortunately, this position is being labeled as a "fetal rights" movement. Next thing we know, mothers will be sued (by their children or others) for having taken alcohol, eaten junk food, or perhaps even having worked during pregnancy. At any rate, it comes close to the "wrongful life" arguments that we have also seen entering the court scene. (Source item from Ray Lemay)

*Employees who simply can't perform their jobs are beginning to turn around and sue their employers for supposedly driving them crazy. As is so common these days, the courts overwhelmingly side with plaintiffs in liability suits (Newsweek, 2 June 86).

*A man in the New York area went to a garden party at an inn, got stung by a wasp, and went into an allergic reaction. He sued the inn, and actually was awarded \$1.45 million (AP, in SHJ, 16/3/88).

*One of the absurdest extremes of an entitlement attitude coupled with litigation is the suit of a 24-year old man who has had a long history of boozing who sued the Jack Daniels Whiskey Company and the Heileman Beer Brewery for \$15,000 for neglecting to warn of alcohol's dangers. If there is one thing that the history of our society has been full of, it is warnings of the ravages of demon rum, not to mention that we can see these ravages constantly all around us (Newsweek, 15/9/86). And then there is another bunch of nuts who go into national parks and when they have a run-in with some animal, they sue the government for letting animals run around the forest (e.g., Newsweek, 28/7/86). This is an extreme of the kind of alienation from nature, reality, and our sources of food that is so common among modern people.

*Product liability suits have gone up 10-fold in the 10 years between 1974-84, but reflect more of an entitlement attitude than any deterioration in product quality. In fact, a producer no longer even has to be at fault in order to be held liable. For instance, an overweight man with a coronary disease tried to start his lawn mower and suffered a heart attack. He sued the lawn mower distributor--and the jury awarded him \$1,750,000. However, suing attorneys get most of the money, incidentally providing employment for the defending attorneys and the court officers (AP, in SHJ, 7 March 86).

*As a sign of the increase in litigiousness of people and its disabling impact on society, the county in which Syracuse, NY, is located is the defendant in about 800 liability suits claiming a total of about \$200 million. About 150 of these suits are lodged by present or former inmates of the county's prisons (SHJ, 20/1/87).

*In a period of about 10 years, the number of damage suits in the US increased almost 10-fold, the number of verdicts awarding damages increased 14-fold, and the average size of the damage tripled. A man intent on committing suicide threw himself before a subway train. The train braked as much as it could and only injured him instead of killing him. Thereupon he sued because he claimed the train should have braked even earlier--and he actually received \$650,000 in damages. A burglar fled from the scene of his crime, and a pistol he was holding fell out of his hand and fired a bullet which hit him. He sued the manufacturer of the pistol for having improperly designed it, and was awarded damages. Two sports parachutists collided in mid-air, and one became paraplegic. A court required the manufacturer of the parachutes to pay heavy damages because the manufacturer had not attached any warning to the parachute that parachute jumping was dangerous (AW, 6/6/87).

*A man who weighed over 300 pounds had a stomach stapling operation to lose weight, and two days later raided a refrigerator in the hospital and stuffed himself with so much food that he burst his staples--whereupon he promptly turned around and sued the hospital for \$250,000. In a society in which children sue their parents for having conceived them, for bearing them, and for not killing them before or after birth, everything under the law is possible.

*The US has more lawyers per capita than any other major nation. In 1985, the US had more than 650,000 practicing attorneys who filed 13 million civil lawsuits that year. Insurance rates, as we all know, have skyrocketed, and in some areas they have gone up 1000%.

The Rise of Dictatorship in Response to Societal Collapse

When the social order collapses, people tend to turn to "strongmen" and dictatorships, often of a military nature.

*The social order in Britain (like most places) is in such a state of decline that the government has repeatedly opened the possibility that identity cards (de facto passports) would be issued to the citizenry in order to keep track of who people are and what they are doing (Guardian, 21/7/88). Furthermore, certain local authorities are considering issuing identification cards of their own which stores and drinking establishments could request to see before serving customers.

*During 1986, more Americans expressed confidence in the military than any other social institution, replacing organized religion which had been ahead for 7 years. In 1987, religion moved back up nose to nose with the military, both of them well ahead of the Supreme Court, banks, schools, etc. (AP, in SHJ, 28/11/87).

*People in our society have not realized that what we now have is a form of economic registration of the citizenry. After all, virtually every aspect of a citizen's financial situation is now embedded in computer systems which, in turn, are in part already in the hands of the government, or at the very least accessible to it if it wishes to gain access. This includes all the tax information, all bank accounts, all stock holdings and transactions, all credit business (including all credit card transactions), virtually all earnings, and so on. What is amazing is that not even civil libertarians have been too concerned about all this. One day not long hence, it will be too late.

More in Future TIPSS

There are other expressions of modernism and the collapse of the social order on which we have much material, but not enough space. This includes violence and drugs in society, and sexual license and its fruits.

Resources

French Translation of PASSING in the Offing

The PASSING rating criteria book is being translated into French, with a possible publication date being early 1989. The chief coordinator of this project and major distributor of the completed product is OPELL Communications, 2021 Quincy Avenue, North Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K1J 4B6, 613/749-6181 (where inquiries should be sent). A French-Swiss consortium in Switzerland is interested in becoming the distributor for French-speaking Europe.

A New International Citizen Advocacy Periodical

The first international Citizen Advocacy periodical will be launched soon under the editorship of Carolyn Bardwell Wheeler (895 Douglass Boulevard, Louisville, Kentucky 40205; 502/456-5625). It will be called Citizen Advocacy Forum, and will have an international board of consulting editors, including the TIPS editor. CA news items, vignettes, workshop announcements, articles, etc., may be submitted to her. More information soon.

Augustus Succumbs

The periodical, Augustus, which had many things in common with TIPS, and was a major source of underground information to anti-imperial human service workers, announced its demise in 8/88. This is a blow to the field, but one more reason for people to hang on to their TIPS subscriptions if they are to get an inkling of the other side.

Election Time Thoughts

*This is not just a TIPS editor shooting off at the mouth (as one reader put it), but an observation shared by many people, including many in the media business. It is that with every political campaign, both issues and suitability of candidates become less and less relevant as candidates become more and more media-packaged. Not only that, but the public is totally falling for this packaging, and is responding almost exclusively to the media image context rather than to candidate character, strength, positions, etc.

In light of all this, readers should contemplate the possibility that as unsuitable as both current US presidential candidates, and possibly their vice presidential running mates as well, are, they may be more qualified than any presidential candidates may be in the future. We can see here once again the awful corruption of the minds of people that the culture of modernism has wrought.

*In the 8/88 issue of TIPS, we commented that the anti-abortion movement has been promoting George Bush as the "pro-life" candidate for the US presidency because he favors reversing the US Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. Since then, one anti-abortion group has stated in its newsletter that Bush is the "clear choice in '88," and that he "speaks out for life." Unfortunately, the anti-abortion movement both fails to mention and to take into account a number of facts. (a) Bush has a long history of supporting abortion. (b) His most recent "talk" position is to oppose it except in cases of rape, incest, or health risk to the mother. (c) It does the greatest violence to reality and to language to claim that Bush "speaks out for life," since he, and innumerable others who oppose abortion in most but not all instances, are overwhelmingly in favor of war and capital punishment. In our opinion, and as we have repeatedly stated before, these kinds of stances are morally incoherent; they reflect a very flawed view of the sanctity of human life; they probably represent a failure to have accepted the absolute inevitability of suffering and its corollary that the infliction of suffering is no way to end suffering; and they open the way to all sorts of other forms of deathmaking that some other party thinks are justifiable exceptions to the rule. One also gets the impression that a large segment of the anti-abortion movement is peculiarly stupid, both in a factual and a moral sense.

As also mentioned in 8/88 issue, this most emphatically does not mean that we support Dukakis, whose stance on these issues is also incoherent, though in a different way.

Big Citizen Advocacy News

On 27 June 1988, something like a "citizen advocacy summit meeting" (CASM, which unfortunately sounds almost like chasm) was held in Atlanta. The "summit" participants, all of whom had been in Atlanta for a TI workshop, were as follows: Andy Baxter, George Doerner, Barbara Fischer, Tom Kohler, Frankie Lewis, John O'Brien, Patricia Powell, Susan Thomas, Carolyn Bardwell Wheeler and Wolf Wolfensberger. The summit had been suggested by Wolf Wolfensberger in order to address a number of issues which involve actual, or potential, perversions in the Citizen Advocacy movement, or on which there were disagreements or misunderstandings by some CA proponents.

In a day of deliberation, 6 points were unanimously agreed upon.

1. So many people are confused as to the distinction between what is essential, what is important, what is desirable, and what is relatively trivial about elements or standards of CA. Accordingly, it was agreed that everything can probably be cast into the following 4 "levels of essentiality."

- a. Definitional. Essential concepts at the core of citizen advocacy.
- b. "Courting death." Practices that, in theory, might be permissible or successful, but are too risky to be justifiable except in extreme or rare cases, and then only on a temporary basis.
- c. Very variable, though not lacking in sound rationale. Practices for which there exists sound rationale, which should only be varied for important and carefully specified conditions, and usually only on a temporary basis.
- d. Broad leeway. Practices for which wide leeway seems permissible within the context of good judgment and clear explication.

The remaining 5 points are given below exactly as agreed upon, without annotation.

2. The conceptualization and explication of principles, standards, and norms of evaluation, or the formulation of sound practices, should not be degraded merely because even normative practice fails to live up to these.

3. People in citizen advocacy leadership roles need a breadth and depth of teaching and learning that goes beyond that required by people who are not in roles that are central to the development and implementation of citizen advocacy.

4. While advocates and the community commonly derive all sorts of benefits from citizen advocacy, the most immediate goal of the match should be the benefit of/to the protegee.


5. There are many ways of advancing and protecting the welfare and interests of vulnerable people. This is the core goal of citizen advocacy. The only way citizen advocacy pursues this goal is via recruiting individual relationship commitments for vulnerable people.

6. In various citizen advocacy offices, one can see extremes of either having a large disproportionality of human service workers as board members, associates or advocates; or excluding human service workers only because they are human service workers. Even when they are free from conflict of interest, it is problematic for human service workers to dominate, and the image of the citizen advocacy office as citizen- and community-rooted is at risk. Even though human service workers should not be excluded, and their recruitment should be made on the basis of individual merit, their disproportionate presence reflects a lack of proper recruitment strategy.

There were yet additional points remaining to be addressed, but time ran out, and such additional points may be addressed at some later meeting.

Everybody who is genuinely concerned about Citizen Advocacy is encouraged to try to understand the above points, to embrace them, to put them into practice, to teach and uphold them, and to ward off any related misinterpretations, degradations, or perversions.

Miscellaneous Human Service News

11  **PERVERSION ALERT** -- We have reported earlier on the proliferation of the Epstein-Barr virus syndrome. However, we must now add the caution that this may become yet another craze--but phantom--syndrome. The symptoms at issue can be caused psychologically, as well as by 50 or more other diseases, plus by many kinds of virus; there is no agreement on what constitutes this disease and how it is to be defined; and tests for the EB virus are not reliable (Monthly AIDS Update, 16/9/88).

TIPS Editorial Policy. TIPS comes out every other month, and contains articles, news, insights, reviews and viewpoints that relate to the interests and mission of the Training Institute. At the present, this mission has to do with reading "the signs of the times," and interpreting their meaning for human services. While TIPS is mostly concerned with phenomena and developments that have to do with human services, reading and telling the "signs of the times" necessitates that TIPS also address some of the larger issues which affect our society and the quality of life on earth, as well as the ways in which decisions are made in our society, because these higher-order phenomena will eventually express themselves in human services in various ways, including in human service values and funding. Usually, each TIPS issue will focus primarily on one specific theme. TIPS addresses relevant developments whenever and wherever they occur, so disclosures of adaptive or horrific developments promoted by a particular political party or government should not be taken as partisan political statements. We assume that subscribers are people who lead hard lives struggling against great odds, and are aware of many shortcomings in human services. Thus, we try to inject levity into TIPS so as to make subscribers' lives more bearable (or less unbearable, as the case may be), even if not deliriously joyful. In fact, the "signs of the times" are depressing, and thus some TIPS content is in need of occasional levitation. TIPS tries to report developments truthfully, but since it gets many items from other sources, it cannot be responsible for errors contained in original sources. Specific items from TIPS may be reproduced without permission as long as the full TIPS reference is cited/acknowledged, and as long as only small portions of a TIPS issue are so reproduced.

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